

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE 2023 CONGRESS-BUNDESTAG/BUNDESRAT EXCHANGE

**HON. KEVIN MCCARTHY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2023*

Mr. MCCARTHY. Mr. Speaker, since 1983, the U.S. Congress (House and Senate) and the German Bundestag and Bundesrat have conducted an annual exchange program for staff members from both countries. The program gives professional staff the opportunity to observe and learn about each other's political institutions and engage in discussion regarding mutual interest.

A staff delegation from the U.S. Congress will be selected to visit Germany from Friday, June 30–Sunday, July 9, 2023. During this exchange, the delegation will attend meetings with Bundestag/Bundesrat party staff members, and representatives of numerous political, business, academic and media agencies.

A comparable delegation of German staff members will visit the United States from Saturday, October 21–Monday, October 30, 2023. They will attend similar meetings in Washington organized by the members of the U.S. delegation.

The Congress-Bundestag/Bundesrat Exchange is highly regarded in Germany and the United States and is one of several exchange programs sponsored by public and private institutions in the United States and Germany to foster better understanding of the politics and policies of both countries. This exchange is funded by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The U.S. delegation shall consist of experienced and accomplished Hill staff who can contribute to the success of the exchange on both sides of the Atlantic. The Bundestag reciprocates by sending senior staff professionals to the United States.

Applicants should have a demonstrable interest in events in Europe. Applicants need not be working in the field of foreign affairs, although such a background can be helpful. The composite U.S. delegation should exhibit a range of expertise in issues of mutual concern to the United States and Germany such as, but not limited to, trade, security, the environment, economic development, health care, and other social policy issues. This year's delegation should be familiar with transatlantic relations within the context of recent world events.

Please note that there is a significant time commitment aspect for those selected for the program. In addition, U.S. participants are expected to plan and implement the meetings and programs for the Bundestag/Bundesrat staff members when they visit the United States.

Members of the House and Senate who would like a member of their staff to apply for participation in this year's program should direct them to submit a resume and cover letter

in which they state their qualifications, the contributions they can make to a successful program and some assurances of their ability to participate during the time stated.

The completion of two vaccinations and proof of vaccination may be required with the traveler's passport dependent on the destination country's COVID protocols.

Applications should be sent to the Office of Interparliamentary Affairs, HC-4, the Capitol, by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 10, 2023. Please submit the application and any questions to [interparliamentary.affairs@mail.house.gov](mailto:interparliamentary.affairs@mail.house.gov).

### REMOVING A CERTAIN MEMBER FROM A CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 2, 2023*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H. Res. 76—Removing a certain Member from a certain standing committee of the House.

H. Res. 76 is a brazen, hypocritical and offensive effort to oust Rep. OMAR from the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Once again, Speaker MCCARTHY and House Republicans are putting extreme political stunts over solving the actual problems facing the American people.

In modern American history, the punishment of stripping Members of Congress of their committee assignments has been reserved for only the most egregious wrongdoers: those convicted or indicted on corruption, bribery, sexual misconduct, encouraging violence, and other grave charges.

This pure partisan move to strip ILHAN OMAR from her committee is not only a political stunt, but also a blow to the integrity of our democratic institutions and a threat to national security.

We're thankful to Leader JEFFRIES for taking up this fight—if Republicans want to degrade the integrity of the House and its committees, Democrats will always stand up against those efforts.

These antics are meant to suppress the work of OMAR—simply because Republicans in Congress don't like her and her views, all while claiming that they respect and welcome differing opinions.

Questioning someone's objective decision making is the most illegitimate litmus test for serving on a committee.

We know this is true because the Speaker has admitted in a fundraising appeal that he was "firing" her because of her "antics."

Ultimately, this is just the latest chapter in the Speaker's bargain with extreme MAGA Republicans.

The Speaker could not become Speaker without the support of extremist members and removing OMAR from the House Foreign Af-

fairs committee is the price he was all-too-eager to pay.

This is political vengeance for investigating and speaking truth about the twice-impeached former president.

The ramifications for the American public, our national security, and foreign relations are real.

OMAR is an experienced, knowledgeable legislator, who has served on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the House Education and Labor Committee for the past two terms, committees and has lived experience and expertise in.

OMAR is a child survivor of war who lived in a refugee camp. OMAR is the first African-born member to serve as a Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations, and brings a wealth of lived experiences to the panel.

Rep. MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE and Rep. PAUL GOSAR were removed from their committees last session on a bipartisan basis for encouraging violence against their colleagues, even after a deadly insurrection.

In February 2021, just a month after she was sworn into Congress, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to censure and remove GREENE from her committee assignments for her many extreme, bigoted, and threatening statements—including her past embrace of conspiracy theories and social media interactions encouraging violence against Democratic officials.

In November 2021, the House voted to censure GOSAR and strip him from his committee assignments after he posted an edited anime video on Twitter that depicted him swinging swords at President Biden and killing Rep. ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ (D-NY). GOSAR said on the House floor that he does not "espouse violence towards anyone," and voluntarily took the video down "out of compassion for those who genuinely felt offense."

GREENE and GOSAR went on to appear at a conference hosted by white nationalist Nick Fuentes in early 2022, prompting widespread condemnation from leaders in both parties.

Sen. TOMMY TUBERVILLE and Rep. MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE are coming under fire for making racist comments during separate Donald Trump rallies over the weekend.

The remarks come on the heels of Trump himself using an anti-Asian slur to refer to Elaine Chao—his former transportation secretary and the wife of Senate Minority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL—and raise questions about whether some Republicans are growing more comfortable using overtly racist rhetoric.

During a rally Saturday night in Minden, Nevada, TUBERVILLE, R-AL, Democrats "want reparations because they think the people that do the crime are owed that," drawing a direct line between crime and African Americans.

On Sunday in Mesa, Arizona, GREENE, R-GA, espoused rhetoric that echoed the "Great Replacement" conspiracy theory long promoted by white nationalists that nonwhite immigrants could eventually displace native-born white Americans.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

There is simply no comparison here. Doing the right thing should never be a precedent for doing wrong.

And yet, both Reps. MARJORIE TAYLOR GREEN (R-GA) and PAUL GOSAR (R-AZ) have since been reassigned to House committees after being stripped off their panel roles in the Democratic-controlled Congress in 2021.

The House GOP Steering Committee assigned GREENE (R-GA) to the House Homeland Security and Oversight Committees and GOSAR (R-AZ) to the House Natural Resources and Oversight Committees, according to multiple reports, received committee assignments back after being stripped from their assignments in the Democratic-controlled Congress in 2021.

Let's be very clear here: Rep. OMAR immediately apologized when she was told by the Jewish community that her words were hurtful and sought out Members of the Jewish community to learn how she could be an ally in the fight against antisemitism.

Other members of this body however regularly spread antisemitic conspiracy theories, talks about Jewish space lasers, and threatens violence against their colleagues.

While the Republican Party leader and former President dine with open neo-Nazis like Nick Fuentes and vile antisemites like Kanye West.

Trump dined also with Nazis, and said "Jews have to get their act together," and also said to a group of Jewish leaders, "You're brutal killers. Not nice people at all. But you have to vote for me; you have no choice." He never apologized.

We must continue to support Representative OMAR. Her goal is to work for her constituents, and they reelected her to do just that.

Republicans cannot continue with these stunts. We must work on legislation that actually impacts the American people instead of these political stunts that do no good.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE ANDREW JACKSON STATUE REMOVAL ACT

#### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2023*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce the Andrew Jackson Statue Removal Act, which would remove the Andrew Jackson statue from Lafayette Park, a federal park in the District of Columbia, and require the Secretary of the Interior to donate the statue to a museum or similar entity. This bill is part of a series of statue and memorial removal bills I am introducing during Black History Month.

The land that comprises Lafayette Park has been used as a racetrack, a showplace for caged animals, a graveyard, a market where enslaved people were sold, an encampment for soldiers and for political protests and celebrations. Jackson was an enslaver and signed a law that forced Native Americans to move west of the Mississippi River. During this forced expulsion by the federal government, roughly 4,000 Cherokee died in what is now known as the Trail of Tears.

The statue, the first in Lafayette Park, was dedicated on January 8, 1853, on the 38th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans, which the statue depicts. This prominent location in the Nation's capital, right outside of the White House, should never have honored a man who was an unabashed racist, owned enslaved people and authorized the genocide of Native Americans. Jackson's entire tenure is a shameful part of our history and should not be honored with a statue in Lafayette Park.

This bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior to ensure the removal of the statue from Lafayette Park and to donate the statue and marble base to a museum or similar entity so that the statue can be accompanied by the appropriate historical context. The next generation can learn from this painful chapter in our history without celebrating it.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

#### REINTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL SHIP FINANCING IMPROVEMENT ACT

#### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2023*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, today I re-introduced my "Federal Ship Financing Improvement Act," expanding the Maritime Administration's (MARAD) federal ship financing program—commonly referred to as "Title XI" of the Merchant Marine Act of 1936—to include re-flagging, repair, or conversions of U.S.-flagged civilian vessels for commercial and military purposes.

Currently, MARAD's Title XI program only provides federal loans and loan guarantees for the construction of new civilian vessels in U.S.-based commercial shipyards or facility and equipment upgrades at those shipyards. My bill would allow MARAD to also provide loan guarantees for corrective or preventative maintenance or re-flagging work at U.S.-based shipyards, including to convert a commercial vessel to a more useful military configuration to carry out federal contracts. The bill would also require that all shipyard improvement projects with loans or loan guarantees from MARAD use construction materials produced or manufactured in the United States. In the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92), U.S. Senator TAMMY BALDWIN (D-WI) and I implemented these "Buy America" requirements for MARAD's small shipyard grant program.

As chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Readiness and the former ranking member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, I have long supported our domestic shipbuilding and U.S.-flagged international fleet. The bill I reintroduced today builds upon my work in the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283), in which I helped to secure Congressional authorization for the new tanker security fleet and strengthened the military's US-flagged preference for seaborne cargo

contracts. In the 117th Congress, my "Federal Ship Financing Improvement Act" was partially incorporated as Section 307 of the Chairman's mark of the House's "Don Young Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2022" (H.R. 6865) but removed from the final law.

Mr. Speaker, American shipyards are ready, willing, and able to take on this additional work. Expanding MARAD's Title XI loan guarantee program to support that work means more well-paying jobs for American workers and better maintained vessels flagged in the United States, useful for military and commercial purposes. I urge all members of the House to cosponsor the "Federal Ship Financing Improvement Act."

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF MANUEL PIHAKIS

#### HON. GUY RESCHENTHALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 8, 2023*

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the life and accomplishments of Manuel Pihakis of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Pihakis was a man devoted to his faith and community, where he served as a teacher, athletic director, wrestling coach, mayor, and school board member for many years. In and around Canonsburg, he was renowned for his caring nature and generosity.

Born the son of Michael and Sophie Pantely Pihakis in 1933, Manuel graduated from Canonsburg High School in 1952. He starred as a three-time PIAA wrestling champion, finishing high school with an impressive record of 99-1. Upon graduation, he attended Indiana University, earning a degree in 1956. His wrestling success led him to participate in the final Olympic tryouts in 1952 and 1956. Manuel's prowess as a competitor and a coach has cemented his place in the Pittsburgh Sports Hall of Fame, Pennsylvania Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame, Washington-Greene Chapter of Pennsylvania's Hall of Fame, and the Canon-McMillan Hall of Honor.

The years Manuel devoted to his fellow Pennsylvanians have immortalized him among the Canonsburg community. He served on many committees, including the School Board, the Zoning Board, and the Frank Sarris Public Library, among others. Ultimately, he was elected to serve his community as Mayor of Canonsburg. Many looked up to him as an academic, athletic, and spiritual mentor.

In 2013, Manuel retired from coaching to spend more time with his wife, Evelyn Mahramas Pihakis, and his sons, Michael and George. He was strongly devoted to his faith as an active member of the All-Saints Greek Orthodox Church in Canonsburg and was awarded the highest honor a layman of the church may receive—the Archon of the Order of St. Andrew.

Mr. Speaker, Manuel Pihakis is a hometown hero to Canonsburg, Pennsylvania, whose legacy of service to family, faith, and community should inspire all Americans. On behalf of the people of Pennsylvania's 14th Congressional District, I extend my condolences to Mr. Pihakis's family and wish them healing during this difficult time.